

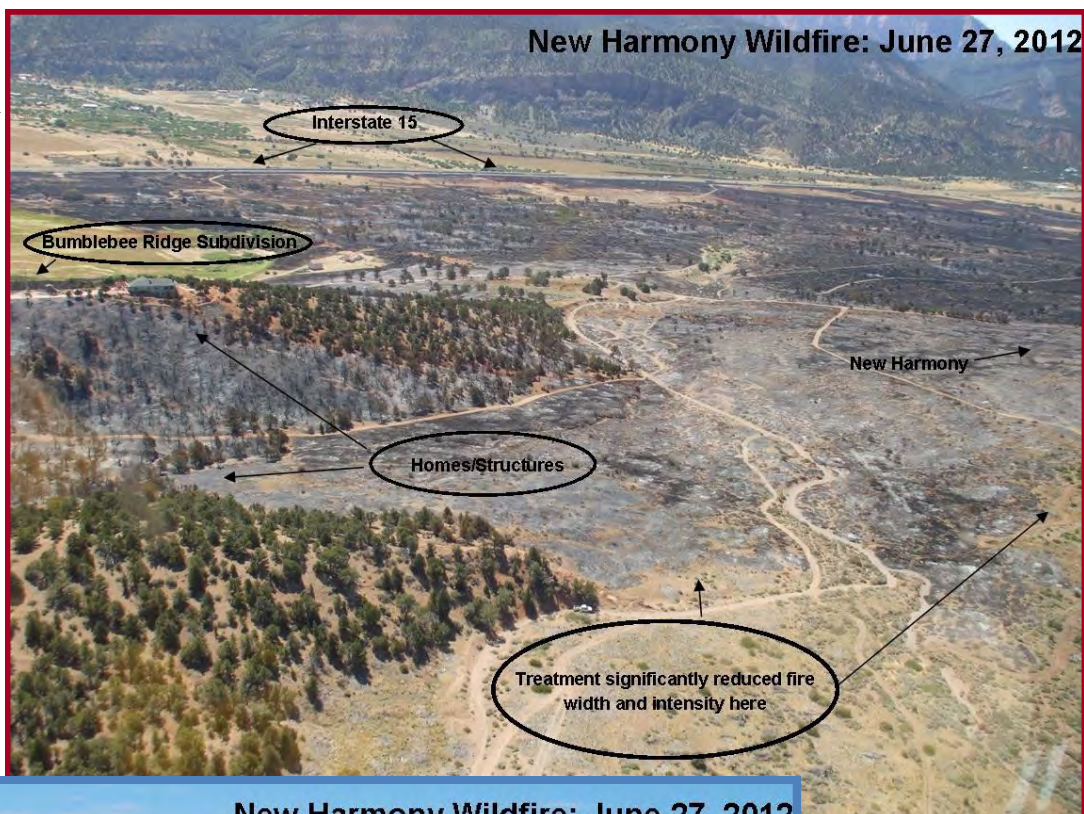
New Harmony Wildfire– Vegetation Treatment Reduced Loss

- BLM, Color Country District -

On June 27, 2012 a wildfire ignited in New Harmony, Utah, immediately threatening homes in a nearby subdivision to the north (Bumblebee Ridge) and impacting Interstate 15.

Because fire managers in the Color Country Interagency Fire Management Area have suppressed many large fires near this community in years past, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) implemented a 1300 acre hazardous fuels reduction project in the winter of 2010, located south of the Bumblebee Ridge Subdivision.

When the fire advanced north from New Harmony, it forcefully reached the subdivision that this vegetation treatment was intended to protect in approximately three hours.



Before & After Treatment



Bumblebee Ridge– Spring 2011

Although the Bumblebee Ridge fuels reduction treatment was designed to be impacted from the west, it intercepted this fire from the south, still making a significant difference for community fire protection. Once the fire impacted the treatment area, fire intensity was significantly reduced, providing firefighters a safe location to work while attempting to protect homes in the fire's direct path. The treatment undoubtedly narrowed the fire's width, preventing fire growth from expanding laterally, into homes and structures located to the north and west of the primary subdivision. This treatment clearly reduced the fire's intensity to homes that were directly ahead of the fast moving flame front.

A combination of hazardous fuels reduction work conducted by BLM, defensible space and mechanical work on private land, and aggressive firefighting efforts all contributed to preventing many homes from being lost on June 27, 2012.